United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1311
18 January 1993

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

• United Nations Spokesman confirms that Iraq has removed six police posts from Kuwaiti territory; Iraq says, in letter to UNSCOM, that due to "ongoing aggression", it cannot be "held responsible for safety of any aircraft whatsoever within Iraqi airspace".

• Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, Ismat Kittani, tells correspondents at Headquarters that situation in Somalia has "greatly improved"; says most important area now is that of political reconciliation between Somali factions.

• In message to 1993 session of Conference on Disarmament beginning in Geneva tomorrow, Secretary-General says Conference must take advantage of momentum from success of Chemical Weapons Convention to make progress on other issues.

• Four UNTAC observers -- two British, a Chilean and a Cambodian interpreter -- detained by National Alliance of Democratic Kampuchea.

• Afghanistan asks United Nations for emergency assistance for some 90,000 Tajik refugees who have fled to Afghanistan due to recent developments in Tajikistan; that country also ask United Nations for aid to alleviate effects of civil conflict.

• League of Arab States urges Security Council to establish "international force" to protect Palestinians in occupied Arab territories.

• Committee on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women opens 12th session in Vienna to discuss equal participation of women in political, economic and cultural life.

• Three-day Disarmament Seminar on arms proliferation and confidence- and security-building measures begins in Asuncion, Paraguay.

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For information media--not an official record

The Secretary-General's Spokesman, Joe Sills, confirmed today that Iraq had removed the six police posts on the Kuwaiti side of the border between the two countries, demarcated by the United Nations. Three posts were removed during the night and the rest this morning, under the supervision of United Nations military observers.

Kuwait had protested the continued presence of the Iraqi police posts on its territory saying it was a serious violation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity and constituted a serious breach of Security Council resolutions. The protest was contained in a letter of 15 January to the President of the Security Council, signed by the Chargé d'affaires of the Kuwaiti Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Nabeela Al Mulla.

In a related development, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iraq has said in a statement that because of the "ongoing military aggression" carried out by the United States, United Kingdom and French fighter planes over its territory, it was "forced to exercise its right of self-defence" and therefore could not be "held responsible for the safety of any aircraft whatsoever within Iraqi airspace".

Accordingly, Iraq said, the interpretation given to its earlier response to the United Nations Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament, namely that it constituted a refusal on the part of Iraq of the Commission's notification and an abdication of Iraq's obligations, was nothing but "a distortion of the Iraqi position".

The statement emphasized that Iraq agreed to ensure the safety and security of United Nations personnel on its territories, but the prevailing situation had obliged the country to ask the Special Commission to assume responsibility for the safety of its own flights.

The statement was sent in reply to the Deputy Executive Chairman of the Special Commission, Pierce S. Cordan, addressed to the President of the Security Council and signed by Nizar Hamdoon, Iraq's Permanent Representative to the United Nations.
Document S/25111

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At a press conference at Headquarters today, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, Ismat Kittani, described the situation in Somalia as "a great improvement" and expressed the hope that, in a few weeks, it would turn into "a manageable situation".

He told correspondents that while a great deal of patience was needed to bring the country back to normalcy, there were now three main areas of active consideration. One, he said, was the time-table and modus operandi for the transition from the Unified Task Force (UNITAF) to a United Nations-led operation which has been the subject of intensive negotiations last week.

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Another concern was how to move to the stage of restructuring, reconstructing, and developing Somalia without neglecting the relief operation. However, the most important area was that of political reconciliation between the Somali factions, since without political cohesion in Somalia, there would be no authority to speak for the country, Mr. Kittani said.

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The United Nations Conference on Disarmament, which will begin in Geneva tomorrow, will represent the first multilateral post-cold-war agreement in the field of disarmament and its provisions on the destruction and elimination of the devastating weapons of mass destruction, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

In his message to the 1993 session of the Conference, he urged that the Conference take advantage of the momentum created by the successful conclusion of the Chemical Weapons Convention to make progress on a number of issues.

It was not the case that disarmament was "a facet of the cold war and no longer centrally relevant to international security needs", Mr. Boutros-Ghali said. While it was true that some important arms limitation agreements were concluded during those years, "the end of the cold war has brought disarmament back on to the centre stage", he said.

The Secretary-General also stressed that the previous balance of power between two military Powers had been replaced by instability and volatility in many regions of the globe and it was therefore appropriate for the Conference, as the single multilateral negotiating body on disarmament, to take bold steps to examine in depth what direction it would take in order to make a decisive contribution in making the world a safe and secure place for all.

At the Conference, the negotiation of a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty, prevention of an arms race in outer space and ensuring transparency in military matters are among the issues slated for discussion. The mandate of the Conference is to promote the attainment of general and complete disarmament under effective international control.

Its agenda is expected to reflect a number of recommendations from the 47th session of the General Assembly including consideration of a report of the Secretary-General entitled "New dimensions of arms regulation and disarmament in the post-cold war era". The Conference is expected to submit the result of those deliberations to the Assembly's Political and Security Committee.

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The United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) today reported that four naval observers have been detained by a unit of the National Alliance of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK).

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According to a spokesman for UNTAC, the four observers -- two British, a Chilean and a Cambodian interpreter -- were detained yesterday after trying for several weeks to discuss the military situation in the province of Kompong Thom with the NADK. The spokesman said the detained observers had reported that they were being treated well and were "busy trying to teach English their captors".

UNTAC was trying to negotiate the release of the men in Phnom Penh in the context of the Mixed Military Working Group and in Kompong Thom through the NADK representatives. UNTAC had so far been unable to get a response from the NADK as to why the men were detained and when they would be freed.

This is the sixth time that United Nations personnel is being detained by the NADK in a 2-month period and follows an incident last Friday in which an American Military Observer was detained for 24 hours by the NADK in the north and later released.

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Afghanistan has asked the United Nations for emergency assistance for some 90,000 Tajik refugees who have fled to Afghanistan due to recent developments in Tajikistan.

In a letter to the Secretary-General of 11 January, the Afghan Permanent Mission to the United Nations said that "as a country that has experienced 14 years of war" and was faced with "an extremely difficult financial and economical situation", Afghanistan was not even in a position to provide basic services to meet the needs of its own population.

The letter asked for urgent emergency assistance for the Tajik refugees in the form of basic necessary commodities, such as foodstuffs, clothes, medicines and shelter.

Meanwhile, in a similar request to the Secretary-General, Tajikistan has asked for "active aid and assistance from the United Nations, the Commonwealth of Independent States [the former Soviet Union] and other international and regional organizations".

The request was contained in a letter, signed by Lakim K. Kayumov, Tajikistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, who said the civil conflict in Tajikistan had caused "immense material damage". The painful consequences of that conflict would be felt by the Tajik people for years to come, the letter said.
Document A/48/64, S/25098.

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The League of Arab States has urged the Security Council "to devise an appropriate mechanism" to enforce the implementation of the 1949 Geneva

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Convention on protection of civilians in time of war, in particular by "the establishment of an international force" to protect Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories.

The request was contained in a resolution adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States, meeting in extraordinary session at the level of Foreign Ministers on 11 and 12 January to discuss the recent expulsion by Israel of some 400 Palestinians from the Gaza Strip to southern Lebanon.

While condemning Israel for the deportation and warning of the "grave dangers arising from this violation", the Arab League called upon the Security Council to "speedily adopt ... measures to ensure the necessary relief for the Palestinian deportees by way of the Palestinian territory".

The resolution was transmitted to the President of the Security Council in a letter signed by Ibrahim A. Omar, the Libyan Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations.
Document S/25103

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The United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women opened its 12th session in Vienna today devoted to the examination of the situation of women. Over the next three weeks, the Committee will discuss the measures taken by a number of States which are parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to ensure the equal participation of women in political, economic and cultural life.

The Committee will also review the implications for its work of the priority themes of the Commission on the Status of Women. These priority themes include increased awareness by women of their rights, including legal literacy; women in extreme poverty; integration of women's concerns in national development planning; and women and the peace process.

The Convention, described as the "single most authoritative legal document" to emerge from the United Nations Decade for Women (1976-1985) sets standards for countries to improve the conditions under which women live and work.

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A three-day Disarmament Seminar on arms proliferation and confidence- and security-building measures commenced today in Asuncion, Paraguay. It will focus on the military dimension of security; security and its economic dimension; and regional mechanisms for registration of arms transfers, safeguarding the exclusively civilian use of dual-purpose technology transfers and inter-State consultations on those matters.

Held under the auspices of the United Nations and financed from voluntary contributions by the Governments of Canada and Norway, the seminar is organized by the Office for Disarmament Affairs through its Regional Centre

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for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean with headquarters in Lima and in cooperation with the Government of Paraguay.

The seminar forms part of the activities of the Office for Disarmament Affairs as a means to promote regional approaches to disarmament in the changed international environment.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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DH/1312
19 January 1993

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General recommends "restructuring" of United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission by replacing unarmed observers with three armed infantry units, to reinforce Mission for rapid response to violations of boundary between two countries.

+ General Assembly admits Czech and Sloval Republics as United Nations members; at flag raising ceremony, Secretary-General welcomes both countries' commitment to United Nations Charter.

+ Co-Chairmen of Yugoslav Conference will travel to Zagreb and Sarajevo tomorrow to help mediate dispute between Muslim-led Bosnian Government and Croats.

+ After more than 48 hours in captivity, four UNTAC naval observers are released by National Alliance of Democratic Kampuchea.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended, in a further special report to the Security Council, dated 18 January, to reinforce the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) with three infantry battalions, together with an increase in headquarters and support elements, comprising a total deployment of 3645 personnel in the area. According to the proposal, this military personnel would replace the current UNIKOM's unarmed observers in order to enable the Mission to rapidly respond to violations of the border between Iraq and Kuwait.

The Secretary-General's recommendation follows Security Council's request of 11 January that Mr. Boutros-Ghali explore urgently "the possibilities for restoring" UNIKOM to its full strength in order to enhance its effectiveness in cases of emergency.

In its "restructured" format, UNIKOM would undertake to prevent or redress small scale violations of the demilitarized zone or the boundary between Iraq and Kuwait. It would also try to prevent or redress "problems that might arise from the presence of Iraqi installations and Iraqi civilians

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and their assets in the demilitarized zone on the Kuwaiti side of the newly demarcated boundary", suggests the report.

Arguing that the proposed task "could not be performed by unarmed observers", the report says that, should the Council vote in favour of the recommendations and decide that UNIKOM's present mandate does not permit an adequate response to violations "as have occurred", then UNIKOM would require a capacity to take "physical action".

The current mandate of UNIKOM observers is to observe any hostile or potentially hostile action mounting from the territory of one State to the other. In case of violations, the unarmed observers report and make representations. With regard to the incidents occurred since the beginning of the month, stresses the report, protests and representations were for the most part ineffective because UNIKOM's interlocutors were powerless to influence a course of events which had been set in motion at the highest levels of the Iraqi Government.

The Secretary-General also emphasizes that his proposal is based on the assumption that the Government of Iraq as well as the Government of Kuwait would undertake to cooperate with the restructured Mission. In the absence of such cooperation, the report says, "it would become impossible for UNIKOM to carry out its functions, in which case the Security Council would need to consider alternative measures".

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The General Assembly this morning admitted the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic to membership in the United Nations. It also devided between the two new Members the seats on various subsidiary organs held by the former Czechoslovakia, which ceased to exist on 31 December 1992.

Following the admission of their countries to membership in the United Nations, the Foreign Minister of the Czech Republic, Josef Zieleniec, and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic, Milan Knazko, stated that the peaceful division of the former Czechoslovakia was a demonstration of mutual tolerance and the democratic and political maturity of the two nations.

At a flag raising ceremony this afternoon, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, while welcoming the commitment of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic to the United Nations Charter and its principles, expressed the hope that both Republics would "follow the tradition of internationalism" shown by their peoples. "That tradition and your sensitivity to international politics has much to contribute to the United Nations", the Secretary-General said.

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Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on former Yugoslavia, are expected to travel to Zagreb and Sarajevo tomorrow to

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help mediate the dispute that has broken out between the Muslim-led Bosnian Government and the Croats, according to the Co-Chairmen's Spokesman, Fred Eckhardt. The Co-Chairmen were leaving for Zagreb at the "request of the parties involved", said the Spokesman.

Regarding the resumption of the Geneva peace talks on former Yugoslavia, a United Nations Spokesman told correspondents today at Headquarters that no definite date had been set, but that the talks could resume "probably over the weekend."

The peace talks between representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), as well as the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference, began initially on 2 January in Geneva. The discussions are focusing on three critical components: the constitutional principles; the delimitation of provinces; and arrangements for implementing and monitoring a cessation of hostilities.

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After more than 48 hours in captivity, four UNTAC naval observers who were detained by a unit of the National Alliance of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK) were released this afternoon.

According to a spokesman for the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), the four observers -- two British, a Chilean and a Cambodian interpreter -- were detained since Sunday after trying for several weeks to discuss the military situation in the province of Kompong Thom with the NADK.

This was the sixth time that United Nations personnel were held by the NADK in a two-month period.

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DH/1313
20 January 1993

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General welcomes unilateral cease-fire declared by Iraq as of this morning.

+ Unconditional acceptance of proposed principles by all sides in Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomed by Secretary-General; peace talks to resume in Geneva on Saturday, 23 January.

+ In two separate letters to United Nations, Bosnia and Herzegovina protests "chronic interference" by Serbian and Montenegrin military forces with UNHCR humanitarian deliveries to Bosnian towns in need of food; and Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) tells of Moslem aggression against its territory.

+ Security problems posed by armed bandits along the Kenyan-Somali border is topic of discussions beginning today between Kenyan Government officials and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

+ Audrey Hepburn, Goodwill Ambassador for UNICEF since 1989, dies in Switzerland.

+ Secretary-General accepts with regret resignation by Under-Secretary-General for Public Affairs Joseph Verner Reed.

+ Hiroshi Nakajima nominated for second five-year term as Director General for World Health Organization.

+ Pierre J. Méhu appointed Director of United Nations Information Centre in Brussels.

+ Regional meeting for World Conference on Human Rights, scheduled for June in Vie na, begins in San Jose.

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For information media—not an official record

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today welcomed the statement by the Revolution Command of Iraq yesterday that it would cease fire as of 8:00 a.m. today (Baghdad time).

In a statement issued at Headquarters today, the Secretary-General further said he strongly hoped that the cease-fire, together with full compliance with all Security Council resolutions by Iraq, would decrease tension in the area.

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The constitutional principles proposed by Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on former Yugoslavia, have now been unconditionally accepted by all sides and the peace talks will resume in Geneva on Saturday, 23 January, according to the Secretary-General's Spokesman today.

In a statement issued today, the Secretary-General said he welcomed the new developments, which would enable the peace process to continue with the immediate purpose of reaching an agreement on the provincial map proposed by the Co-Chairmen. He appealed to all sides to conclude the agreement without delay and to observe the unconditional cessation of hostilities to which the representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) had already agreed, thereby laying the basis for lasting peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The provincial map illustrating the ten-province structure was proposed by the Co-Chairmen as part of a comprehensive political settlement for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In the meantime, Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen were in Zagreb today to help mediate the dispute that has broken out between the Muslim-led Bosnian Government and the Croats. They plan to return to Geneva tomorrow, the Spokesman said.

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Bosnia and Herzegovina has informed the United Nations that Serbian and Montenegrin military forces are denying access of food deliveries to Gorazde and Srebrenica, two Bosnian towns that are in desperate need.

In a letter to the President of the Security Council, dated 18 January, the Bosnian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Muhamed Sacirbey, said Serb and Montenegrin forces were "chronically" interfering with convoys of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Such interference with the delivery of humanitarian assistance, he said, imminently threatened the lives of hundreds of thousands of people.

The letter noted that exposure, disease and hunger were now the principal tools of ethnic cleansing, "as effective or perhaps more effective than even bombs or bullets".

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In related news, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) has informed the United Nations of "the agression of Moslem forces on 16 January" against its territory in the area of the Serbian municipality of Bratunac.

According to a letter of 18 January from Dobrica Cosic, President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, addressed to the Secretary-General, Moslem forces surrounded a number of Serbian villages and "massacred the civilian population" and opened fire on the dam of the Perucac Hydro Power Station, "intending to cause an ecological catastrophe".

President Cosic said the "biased and one-sided behavior of certain international factors" had encouraged the Moslem side "to aggressive and provocative conduct". In spite of the constant efforts to jeopardize the peace process, he said, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia would intensify its efforts for putting an end to the suffering of the peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina and arriving at a just political solution and ensuring lasting peace.
Document S/25120, S/25117

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Kenyan Government officials today began discussions aimed at finding a solution to the mounting security problems posed by armed bandits along the Kenyan-Somali border, according to a UNHCR press release issued today.

The Agency reported that last week, at least 18 people, including several Kenyan guards, were killed in cross-border raids when armed bandits attacked camps -- housing Somali, Ethiopian and Sudanese refugees -- in search of food and vehicles. The UNHCR has asked Governments involved in Operation Restore Hope in Somalia to consider speeding up the deployment of forces to three areas along the Somalia-Kenya frontier to halt the increasing forays of Somali bandits across the border.

While committed to finding a durable solution for the 416,000 refugees who have found sanctuary in Kenya, the release said, UNHCR's mandate will not allow it to be a party to the forced rapatriation of refugees to areas where their lives could be at risk. Furthermore, it said, insecurity around the border refugee camps, along with heavy rains that have turned roads into impassable road tracks, have seriously disrupted food deliveries to the refugees.

Canadian cargo jets today began an emergency food airlift into the region, the release added.

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The American Actress and Goodwill Ambassador to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Audrey Hepburn, died today in Switzerland. She was 63 years old.

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According to a press release issued by UNICEF, Mr. Hepburn became an official spokesperson for the Agency in 1988. The following year she was named Goodwill Ambassador and "immediately set off to visit drought-stricken Ethiopia".

In September 1992, Ms. Hepburn visited first war-ravaged and drought-stricken Somalia and then refugee camps in northern Kenya. This mission was followed by extensive media activities in Nairobi, London, Geneva, Paris and the United States.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros said today in an announcement that he had accepted, with regret, the resignation by Under-Secretary-General Joseph Verner Reed.

An "invaluable friend of the United Nations", Mr. Reed had made significant contributions to help further the objectives of the Organization in the past, and would continue to do so in the future, the Secretary-General said.

Mr. Reed has twice served the United Nations as Under-Secretary-General. From 1987 to 1989, he was Under-Secretary-General for General Asembly and Political Affairs and from 1992 to present, he was Under-Secretary-General and Special Representative for Public Affairs.

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Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima has been nominated for a second five-year term as Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) by its Executive Board, which met in Geneva today. His nomination will be submitted for the approval of the forty-sixth World Health Assembly meeting in Geneva next May. Dr. Nakajima's present term of office ends in July 1993.

Dr. Nakajima joined the WHO in 1974 in the position of Scientist, Drug Evaluation and Monitoring. He became chief of the Drug Policies and Management Unit in 1975. In 1978, the WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific nominated Dr. Nakajima as Regional Director. In May 1988, while still in office as Regional Director, he was appointed Director-General of the WHO by the forty-first World Health Assembly.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed Pierre J. Méhu, a national of Haiti, as Director of the United Nations Information Centre in Brussels. He will take up his post on 1 February, succeeding Salah Cherif who is retiring from the Organization. The UNIC Brussels provides information services to Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the European Community.

Mr. Méhu had served, since 1990, as Director of the United Nations Information Service at Geneva. He joined the Department of Public Information

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(DPI) in April 1974 as a Press Officer in the French Press Section, and became Chief of the Section in 1985.

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Delegations from 33 Latin American and Caribbean nations began a week-long meeting in San Jose yesterday to negotiate a regional position for the forthcoming World Conference on Human Rights to be held in Vienna from 14 to 25 June.

The Regional Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean has been convened to review the work of the United Nations in the promotion and protection of all human rights as defined in various legal instruments beginning with the Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948.

Delegations are expected to formulate proposals for promoting human rights and improve coordination of the United Nations mechanisms and regional systems. That set of recommendations -- to be called the "Declaration of San Jose" -- will be submitted to the World Conference in Vienna.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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DH/1314
21 January 1993

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Holy See asks Secretary-General, at request of Iraq, to intercede with Security Council with view to promoting dialogue between Council and Iraq; United Nations spokesman confirms that plane carrying 52 United Nations weapons inspectors landed in Iraq this morning.

+ United States calls for measures to prepare for transition from United States-led forces to United Nations Operation in Somalia, citing "significant progress" toward securing environment for humanitarian relief operations.

+ United Nations appeals for $138.1 million for agencies to aid Afghanistan from January to September.

+ Lebanon asks Security Council for extension of mandate of United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, which expires on 31 January, for further six-month period.

+ Egyptian Foreign Minister dismisses allegations by Sudan that Egyptian forces are carrying out aggression against Halayib, saying that territory belongs to Egypt both legally and historically.

+ Secretary-General's report on disarmament and arms regulation discussed at Conference on Disarmament.

+ Outgoing President of International Fund for Agricultural Development warns that 20 million more rural people, mostly women, will be trapped in poverty each year, if nothing is done.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has been approached by the Holy See, on behalf of the Iraqi Government, with the request that he intercede with the Security Council with a view to promoting a dialogue between the Council and Iraq. In a statement issued today, the Secretary-General said he had conveyed the request to Security Council members.

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For information media--not an official record

The Secretary-General hopes that the recent decision by Iraq to cease its restrictions on flights of United Nations aircraft carrying Special Commission's inspectors, together with full compliance by Iraq with Security Council resolutions, will decrease tensions in the area, and that the dialogue between Iraq and the United Nations will develop in a more positive context.

Meanwhile, a United Nations spokesman confirmed today that a plane carrying 52 United Nations weapons inspectors had landed this morning in Iraq. Another flight was expected for tomorrow.

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The United States has called for measures to prepare for the transition from the United States-led Unified Task Force to the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM), saying that "significant progress" had been made by the coalision forces in support of the Operation Restore Hope toward securing the environment for humanitarian relief operations in that country.

In a report, dated 16 January, the United States says its officials have already begun initial discussions of this progress with United Nations officials in New York, as well as with the United States Commander of the Unified Task force and United Nations officials in Somalia.

The report says the United States looked forward to "prompt consideration" of a Security Council resolution that will authorize an increase in number of troops for UNOSOM, give it an appropriate mandate, and ensure it is properly equiped to handle that mandate.

There are approximately 21,000 United States military personnel deployed in the Unified Task Force in Somalia. Non-United States forces in the coalision forces total some 10,000 troops.
Document S/25126

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The United Nations today issued a consolidated Appeal asking the international community to provide $138.1 million in emergency humanitarian assistance for Afghanistan, devastated by fourteen years of war.

In a statement issued in connection with the appeal, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said "the severe hardships faced by large sections of the Afghan population ... must be of priority concern to the international community". Despite adverse conditions, the statement said, over 1.5 million refugees returned to Afghanistan in 1992, and up to two million were expected to follow during 1993.

The appeal, which covers the period from January to September 1993, focuses on "life-sustaining" actions that include mine clearance, voluntary repatriation assistance, food aid, health facilities, water supply and sanitation aid, as well as emergency agricultural inputs.

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In addition to supporting the return of refugees, programmes included in the appeal aim to meet needs of about 2 million Afghans in the poorest sections of the cities and in rural communities affected by returning refugees and displaced persons. Lack of adequate food, shelter and health facilities, particularly during the harsh winter months, had further exacerbated their ordeal.

The Secretary-General has asked his Personal Representative, Sotirios Mousouris, to coordinate the emergency operation in his capacity as Coordinator of Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan, under the overall direction of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Jan Eliasson. The coordination of the emergency programmes will be conducted by the newly-formed United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan (UNOCHA).

A similar appeal was made in June 1992 for $180 million in emergency assistance for Afghanistan, but only $85 million was received. As a result, the necessary programmes in Afghanistan were in peril, according to a United Nations official today.

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Lebanon has asked the Security Council for an extension of the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), which expires on 31 January, for a further six-month period.

In a letter, dated 18 January, the Lebanese Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Khalil Makkawi, reports that perfect coordination exists between the command of UNIFIL and the Lebanese Army, which UNIFIL is helping to restore its authority in the southern part of the country. However, the letter says, Israel is determined to undermine Lebanese efforts to consolidate national unity and territorial integrity "by perpetuating its brutal occupation of the south".

The letter goes on to say that in spite of protests by the Lebanese Government, Israel has recently uprooted 415 Palestinian civilians from their homes and deported them to Lebanon in violation of Lebanese sovereignty and territorial integrity. In that context, it says, the presence of UNIFIL continues to be of utmost necessity to provide much of the needed assistance and international support for the civilian population faced with Israeli occupation.
Document S/25125

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Egyptian Foreign Minister Amre Moussa has dismissed allegations by the Sudan that Egyptian forces were carrying out an aggression against the territory of Halayib, saying that Egypt considered the reference made by the Sudan as "unacceptable in both form and substance".

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In a letter to the President of the Security Council, dated 14 January, Mr. Moussa said there had "never at any time" been an Egyptian presence in Sudanese territory south of the 22nd parallel, and the claim that "the Halayib area is Sudanese territory rests on no legal, historical or factual basis".

The claims revealed the designs of the Sudan, he wrote, to transform the limited administrative functions entrusted to it by Egypt "into permanent occupation and annexation" of territory that belongs to Egypt both legally and historically.
S/25127

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The present period offered an historic occasion for the globalization of disarmament, the representative of Turkey, Asim Arar, told the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva today, as it discussed the report of the Secretary-General entitled "New dimensions of arms regulation and disarmament in the post-cold war era".

Mr. Arar stated that disarmament could only be justified at the international scale if it was perceived as a means of achieving peace and not as an end in itself. It was also time for the Conference, he said, to recognize the far-reaching changes which had occurred in the world and to adjust its priorities accordingly.

Also today, the Conference continued consultations on its agenda for the 1993 session and discussed other organizational matters. The first part of the Conference's 1993 session began on 19 January and is scheduled to run until 26 March.

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The Governing Council of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) opened its sixteenth session in Rome yesterday during which it will review IFAD's activities around the world, particularly its efforts to eliminate rural poverty in the developing world.

The President of IFAD, Idriss Jazairy, warned that 20 million more rural people, mostly women, would fall into the poverty trap each remaining year of the decade if present trends were allowed to continue. "We can halt this tragic trend not by handouts, but by helping the poor avoid or climb out of the poverty trap, setting themselves on the path to achieving a lasting improvement in their condition."

Mr. Jazairy, who is due to step down as President of IFAD after serving two four-year terms, said that IFAD is guided by the paradigm that investing in the rural poor "is not only socially desirable but makes good economic sense".

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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22 January 1993

F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

+ Security Council deplores Croatian army offensive today in "pink zones" -- areas in Croatia controlled by local Serb forces; appeals to all parties to cooperate fully with peace process in region; Secretary-General also deplores Croatian offensive calling it "setback" to efforts by United Nations Peace-keepers in Croatia.

+ Resuming in Geneva tomorrow, 23 January, peace talks on Bosnia and Herzegovina will focus on delimitation of provinces, or "map", says Spokesman for Co-Chairmen of Yugoslav Conference.

+ Secretary-General briefs Security Council on total of twenty-two issues in Africa, Asia, Central America, Europe, Haiti, Middle East and Pacific.

+ Bosnia and Herzegovina questions Security Council's preliminary conclusions that recent assassination by its Deputy Prime Minister was "act of one soldier acting alone".

+ European Community Commission launches new $10 million food aid programme for refugees in former Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

+ Foreign Ministers of Association of South-East Asian Nations express concern over intensified political harassment and even assassinations perpetrated against personalities and political workers of various political parties in Cambodia.

+ Palestine Rights Committee condemns Israel's deportation of over 400 Palestinians.

+ Fawzi Hamad Al-Sultan, Executive Director of World Bank representing Arab States, elected President of International Fund for Agricultural Development at its 16th session in Rome yesterday.

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For information media--not an official record

The Security Council today deplored the Croatian army offensive that took place today in the "pink zones" -- areas in Croatia controlled by local Serb forces. It also deplored the violations by all sides of the United Nations peace-keeping plan and appealed to all parties to cooperate fully with the peace process in the region .

In a statement read out on behalf of Council members by its President, Yoshio Hatano (Japan), the Council urged the Croatian authorities "to withdraw their forces to positions occupied before the offensive and thereby support the efforts of the Force Commander of the United Nations Protection Force in Croatia (UNPROFOR) to diffuse the situation.

The statement demanded that all parties adhere faithfully to all relevant Security Council resolutions and urged all parties "to undertake no action that could jeopardize the peace process" and to cooperate fully with the Co-Chairmen of the Yugoslav Conference in their current efforts.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali this evening also deplored the "unilateral military action" by the Croatian authorities in the "pink zones". In a statement issued by his Spokesman, he said the action was "a setback" to the efforts by the United Nations Protection Forces in Croatia (UNPROFOR) to achieve a peaceful transfer or control in the "pink zones".

According to the statement, President Fanjo Tudjman of Croatia told UNPROFOR Commander, Lieutenant-General Satish Nambiar, during a meeting earlier today, that the military action had been undertaken for the limited purpose of providing security for the construction of a bridge at Maslenica. His forces would not withdraw from the site, but they had no intention of extending operations to other area, he said.

The statement went on to say that UNPROFOR was taking all steps in its power to prevent the situation from escalating. In addition to reiterating his demand that the Croatian army withdraw to positions held before the recent offensive, UNPROFOR Commander Nambiar had called upon the local Serb authorities to exercise restraint and not to embark upon a cycle of action and retaliation which could have "calamitous consequences".

The Secretary-General said the Deputy Force Commander of UNPROFOR, Major-General Gaudreau, had been sent to the area to review the situation and to issue the necessary directives to UNPROFOR personnel there.

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Resuming in Geneva tomorrow, 23 January, the peace talks aimed at ending the nine-month conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina will focus on the delimitation of provinces, or "the map", Fred Eckhard, the Spokesman for the Co-Chairmen of the Yugoslav Conference, said yesterday.

Speaking to correspondents in Geneva, he said the principal participants were expected to be the same as at the previous summit round. At the outset of Saturday's session, there would most likely be a formal approval by the three

parties of the first part of the "three-part peace package" -- the Constitutional Principles.

Mr. Eckhard went on to say that even after the plan was approved, there would probably be difficulties in its implemention and in keeping the parties true to the letter and spirit of the agreement. A Constitution would have to be drafted and arrangements made for an interim Government. Nevertheless, there was a sense of a momentum and a hope that the talks could be winding up toward a successful conclusion, he added.

Among the participants in the talks are President Izetbegovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina; the Bosnian Croat leader, Mate Boban; the Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic; President Tudjman of Croatia; and President Cosic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali briefed the Security Council this morning on a total of twenty-two issues regarding Africa, Asia, Central America, Europe, Haiti, the Middle East and the Pacific.

Following the informal meeting, the Secretary-General was asked by correspondents whether he was satisfied with Iraq's compliance with the Council resolutions. He pointed out that there were certain resolutions with which there has not been compliance, such as Iraq's "participation in the Commission dealing with the boundaries". However, he welcomed the "new attitude of the Government of Iraq".

On the question of the United Nations taking over the operations in Somalia, the Secretary-General said the transition had been prepared for in meetings with the Unified Command. He said he could not give a date for the transition.

The Secretary-General said the Council also discussed a letter sent by the Holy See asking the mediation of the Secretary-General with the Council to promote a dialogue between Iraq and the Council.

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Bosnia and Herzegovina has expressed doubts about preliminary conclusions reached by the Security Council on the killing of the Bosnian Deputy Prime Minister, Hajika Turajlic, earlier this month by Serbian forces.

In a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 20 January, Muhamed Sacirbey, the Bosnian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, questioned the letter he had received from the Council citing the assassination as "the act of one soldier acting alone". At the very least, he wrote, "the Serbian leadership is guilty of criminal complicity in the killing".

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Mr. Sacirbey, while pointing out that the Council's excerpted conclusions on the killing were "entirely unsupported", said he hoped that the publication of the full report would shed light on the behaviour of Serbian forces.

A Special Commission of Inquiry was set up by the Secretary-General in mid-January to investigate the killing of the Bosnian Deputy Prime Minister. It is headed by Sahabzada Yaqub-Khan, former Foreign Minister of Pakistan, and Lars-Eric Wahlgren, Commander of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). A full report by the Commission is expected before the end of the month.

In related news, Croatia has submitted documents on war crimes committed on the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

In a letter to the President of the Security Council, dated 20 January, the Croatian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Mario Nobilo, said the documentation contained eyewitness testimonies of mass killings by the Yugoslav army and Serbian paramilitaries, as well as accounts of burials in mass graves in eastern Croatia. He appealed to the Council to adopt necessary measures to secure the sites of mass graves and protect them from possible tampering in the interest of future investigation of war crimes committed in that region.

* * *

The European Community (EC) Commission has launched a new $10 million food aid programme for refugees in the former Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), raising to $350 million the EC's total contributions to international humanitarian aid efforts since September 1991.

According to a statement issued by the EC today, the new aid programme will over the next two months deliver some 325,000 parcels of basic food and sanitary supplies to host families sheltering refugees in the former republics.

It is the first direct operation of the recently established European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) and is being carried out in close cooperation with the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Red Cross organizations of both Serbia and Montenegro.

* * *

The Foreign Ministers of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), in a statement addressed to the President of the Security Council, have expressed concern over intensified political harassment and even assassinations perpetrated against personalities and political workers of various political parties in Cambodia.

The statement was signed by the Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations, Chew Tai Soo, on behalf of the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of the States which are members of ASEAN: Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia and Brunei.

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Expressing "grave concern" over the recent spate of killings of residents of Vietnamese origin, the statement also warned that this could "eventually lead to renewed large-scale fighting in Cambodia". It called on all Cambodian parties to cooperate with the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) and to contribute to ensure a peaceful and neutral political environment so that there can be "free and fair elections" as stipulated in the Paris Peace Agreements.

It further welcomed Prince Norodom Sihanouk's candidacy in the Presidential election slated to be held in April or May this year, and expressed its belief that he would be able to play a "pivotal" role in bringing about national reconciliation among all Cambodians. An elected President would facilitate the conduct of the general elections and would also provide an anchor of stability in the period after the elections, the statement added.

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The United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People has strongly condemned Israel's deportation of more than 400 Palestinians from the occupied territories on 17 December 1992.

At a meeting yesterday at Headquarters, the Committee condemned Israel's persistent refusal to comply with Security Council resolution 799 (1992) which demanded that it ensure the safe and immediate return of the deportees to the occupied territories. Furthermore, it called upon the Council to take all necessary measures, including the application of Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter allowing States "to take action ... as may be necessary" to bring about the implementation of its resolution. The Committee stated that such action would help ensure the continuation of the Middle East peace process and preserve the credibility of the Council.

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Fawzi Hamad Al-Sultan was elected President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) at the Agency's 16th session in Rome yesterday. Mr. Al-Sultan, the Executive Director of the World Bank representing Arab States, was elected by acclamation and succeeds Idriss Jazairy who completes his second four-term on 23 January.

In his acceptance speech, Mr. Al-Sultan stressed the growing importance of IFAD's work, citing increased global poverty which places additional pressures on the world's resources. He said IFAD needed to reach out more to the rural poor and to be more effective with its interventions.

Prior to his transfer to the World Bank in 1984, the 48-year-old Kuwaitian was the Managing Director of the Bank of Kuwait and the Middle East and the Director of Research at the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1316
25 January 1993

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Special Commission investigating 8 January killing of Deputy Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina, concludes that "assassination was work of a single assailant acting unilaterally".

+ Croatian offensive has not affected in any major way peace talks on Bosnia and Herzegovina, according to Co-Chairmen to Yugoslav conference; talks, resumed today, to continue tomorrow; Security Council to continue consultations on the subject tonight.

+ Secretary-General expresses deep concern over security of United Nations personnel in the Sudan, stresses that delivery of humanitarian relief to that country is contingent upon authorities' cooperation to ensure workers' security.

+ Macedonia's application for United Nations membership, initially submitted last July, is circulated as official document by Secretary-General; joint Nordic infantry battalion expected to be deployed in that country by mid-February.

+ Secretary-General recommends that Security Council extend mandate of United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon for further period of six months.

+ Goal of Natural Disaster Reduction Decade is to establish effective partnership between United Nations and international community, Secretary-General tells opening of second session of Special High-Level Council of that Decade.

+ Two more flights arrive in Iraq, bringing to four number of flights completed by United Nations Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament since last week, according to United Nations spokesman.

+ Samir Sanbar appointed Special Representative for United Nations Mision to Verify Referendum in Eritrea.

(more)

For information media--not an official record

+ Government of Guatemala proposes two-part plan for national reconciliation aimed at ending thirty years of armed conflict in that country.

+ Russian Federation and United States express concern over "continuing sanguinary tragedy" in Nagorno-Karabakh; call for early convening of Minsk Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe to solve conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

+ Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Marrack Goulding, currently in Cambodia; to attend Supreme National Council meeting in Beijing on 28 January.

+ Despite recent killing of international relief worker and bombings of relief trucks, World Food Programme continues winter relief programme for northern Iraq and steps up deliveries to southern and central Iraq.

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The report of the Special Commission investigating the 8 January killing of Hakija Turajlic, Deputy Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina, has concluded that "the assassination was the work of a single assailant acting unilaterally".

In a letter transmitting the report to the President of the Security Council, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali points out that it is not part of the mandate of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) "to escort members of the Presidency of the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina to and from Sarajevo airport". However, he says, UNPROFOR has provided the service as a courtesy to the host Government.

In addition, the letter notes, the request for escort made by the Bosnian Presidency on 8 January was on "very short" notice, and not until the time of the incident itself was UNPROFOR aware of the identity of the personality being transported. As a result, UNPROFOR failed to adhere to the standing operating procedures normally applied to the escort of civilian VIPs.

The report makes specific recommendations relating to various aspects of UNPROFOR's functioning in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the proposal to create a zone around Sarajevo airport, as already planned under the agreement of 5 June 1992, and a review of the procedures for the control of activities at the airport. The report also suggests that the right of UNPROFOR to enjoy freedom of movement be emphasized and that the knowledge and training of the United Nations personnel with regard to standing operating procedures be increased.
Document S/25130.

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According to Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on former Yugoslavia, the Croatian offensive had not affected in

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any major way the peace talks on Bosnia and Herzegovina, currently under way in Geneva, and the talks - resumed today - should continue tomorrow.

The announcement was made at a press conference in Geneva yesterday, 24 January, at which the two Co-Chairmen deplored the Croatian army offensive that took place in the "pink zones" -- Serbian-populated areas in Croatia under United Nations protection - and urged all sides to "contain the conflict."

Mr. Vance and Lord Owen said that despite the outbreak of fighting in those areas, the Geneva peace talks, aimed at ending the nine-month conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina, were making progress -- "slow, but definite."

The Security Council was scheduled to continue consultations on the situation in the area tonight.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in a statement issued today by his Spokesman, has expressed deep concern about the security of United Nations and other humanitarian relief personnel working in the Sudan.

The seriousness of the situation, the statement said, had been highlighted by two recent incidents; one in August, where two United Nations staff members, and a non-governmental relief worker and a free-lance journalist were killed in southern Sudan. A United Nations investigation mission concluded that the Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) members were responsible for the killings.

In a separate incident, two United Nations staff members were detained by authorities of the Government of the Sudan in Juba. The United Nations has now been notified of the results of the investigation, but informed that the whereabouts of the two individuals are unknown.

The statement also pointed out that, while the United Nations remained committed to providing humanitarian relief to all those in need throughout the Sudan, its ability to do so was dependent upon the full cooperation of all authorities, in particular in insuring the security of relief workers.

For its part, the statement said, the Organization had undertaken a thorough review of operational and security procedures so as to insure maximum protection of United Nations and other humanitarian relief workers, but ultimate responsibility rested with those exercising authority in areas of humanitarian relief operations.

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The application for membership in the United Nations by the Republic of Macedonia - first submitted to the United Nations last July - has been circulated as an official document by the Secretary-General, following Security Council consultations concerning its receivability.

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In a letter of 30 July 1992 to the Secretary-General, which contained the application for United Nations membership, Macedonian President Kiro Gligorov wrote that his country's admission to United Nations membership would be "a very significant step towards the peaceful solution of the crisis in the territory of the former Yugoslavia".

The Republic of Macedonia had accepted the obligations contained in the Charter of the United Nations and fully supported the United Nations and the enhancement of its role in promoting international peace, security and justice, the letter also said.

Meanwhile, according to a United Nations spokesman today, a 735-member joint Nordic battalion should be deployed in Macedonia in mid-February. The mandate of the Nordic battalion, involving Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, was "to monitor and report any developments in border areas which could undermine confidence and stability in Macedonia or threaten its territory." Administratively, the Nordic contingent would be part of United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), the spokesman added.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended to the Security Council that it extend the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for a further period of six months, until 31 July 1993.

In a report to the Council, dated 22 January, the Secretary-General said that during the last six months southern Lebanon had witnessed periods of high tension and UNIFIL was doing its best to prevent the area from being used for hostile activities. He appealed to all parties concerned to respect UNIFIL's international and impartial status and to show proper regard for the lives of non-combatant men, women and children.

Regarding the serious shortfall in the funding of the Force, the report said that, at present, unpaid assessments amounted to some $228 million. The sum represented money owed to Member States which contributed troops to the Force.

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The goal of the Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction was to establish an effective partnership between the United Nations and the international community, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali told the opening of the second session of the Special High-Level Council of the International Decade this morning.

Natural disasters were becoming more destructive and more costly, he noted. In 1991 alone, the economic cost of disasters was estimated at some $44 billion, with more than 160,000 people losing their lives.

However, the Secretary-General continued, in the field of natural disaster reduction, only limited progress had been achieved so far. The

United Nations should play a strong new lead by mobilizing scientific knowledge and technological know-how. Just as preventive diplomacy could foresee and prevent the outbreak of war, so the effects of natural disasters could be foreseen and contained, he said.

Over 100 countries had already drawn up national plans for disaster reductions, following the guidelines and recommendations of the Scientific and Technical Committee of the Decade. Donor countries had also begun to respond by providing practical support for such national plans, the Secretary-General said. The holding of the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, scheduled to take place in May 1994 in Yokohama, Japan, should be a most important step in the world-wide efforts to address these problems, he said.

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Since last Friday, two more flights had arrived in Iraq, bringing to four the total number of flights that had been completed by the United Nations Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament (UNSCOM) since the resumption of such flights last week, according to a United Nations spokesman today.

On Saturday, a cargo flight had arrived as expected and early today, a fourth flight carrying personnel of a new International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspection unit, as well as a missile inspection unit, arrived in Iraq. Everything continued to go smoothly, the spokesman added.

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The Secretary-General has announced the appointment of Samir Sanbar, Director of Information Centers Division of the Department of Public Information (DPI), as his Special Representative for the United Nations Mission to Verify the Referendum in Eritrea (UNOVER). The appointment is at the Assistant Secretary-General level.

The referendum process in Eritrea, begun in July 1992, will be completed in April this year, and consists of three phases, namely, the registration of voters, the referendum campaign and the poll.

The mandate of UNOVER is to verify the impartiality of the referendum authorities and organs; complete freedom of organization, movement, assembly and expression; and equal access to media facilities and the proper drawing up of the roles. The mission will also report to the referendum authorities on complaints, irregularities and interferences, and observe all activities related to the referendum, including registration of voters, organization of the poll, the campaign, the counting, computation and announcement of results.

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The Government of Guatemala has put forward a proposal on a two-part plan for national reconciliation aimed at ending more than thirty years of armed conflict in that country. The proposal is in line with the understanding reached with the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca -- the Government

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opposition group known as URNG -- under the Esquipulas II Agreements of 1987 and the Oslo Agreement of March 1990.

According to the proposal, which was conveyed to the Secretary-General by President Jorge Antonio Serrano Elías of Guatemala last week, the Agreement on Human Rights should be signed immediately, followed by the signature, within a period of no more than 90 days after that, of the Total Agreement on a Firm and Lasting Peace. In the unlikely event that the Total Agreement cannot be signed, a definitive cease-fire should be declared upon the expiry of the 90-day period.

Also according to the proposal, the Government shall determine the places where, under United Nations supervision, URNG should temporarily concentrate all its armed contingents until the negotiations are completed for the demobilization and disarmament of URNG.

A letter containing the proposal, signed by the Guatemalan Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Julio Armando Martini Herrera, was made public on 19 January.(S/25134).

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The Russian Federation and the United States have expressed "deep concern over the continuing sanguinary tragedy" in Nagorno-Karabakh and have called for an immediate end to the bloodshed and an early convening of the Minsk Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) to solve all the disputed problems between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

According to a joint statement, dated 3 January, signed by Russian President Boris Yeltsin and George Bush, then United States President, the hostilities between Armenia and Azerbaijan continued to increase the number of casualties, mostly among civilians, and inflicted enormous damage to the economies of both States. The two countries called on the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan "to confirm by practical deeds" their statements on the desire to solve the conflict by peaceful means.

In a statement in reply, Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrossian said that his country had repeatedly given tangible proof of its commitment to achieve understanding on the basis of proposals mutually acceptable to the Armenian and Azerbaijani people.

In a similar statement, the Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, G. Petrossian, said the efforts of mediators were not bearing fruit because Azerbaijan was taking a position that was "clearly and totally destructive".

However, according to a statement by the President of Azerbaijan, Abulfaz Elchibey, the conflict was a question of aggression, and unless the aggressor was identified, it would be difficult to put an end to the bloody war.

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The joint United States/Russian statement was transmitted in a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 23 January, and signed by the two countries' Permanent Representatives to the United Nations, Edward J. Perkins and Yuli M. Vorontsov. (S/25148).

The three other statements were transmitted in letters addressed to the President of the Security Council, and signed by the Permanent Representatives of Armenia and Azerbaijan, respectively. (S/25142, S/25141, S/25143).

* * *

The Spokesman for the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) announced today that Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations, Marrack Goulding, who is currently in Cambodia to review the work of UNTAC and its various components, would travel to Battambang, Sok San and Takeo tomorrow to visit the various UNTAC teams. He is scheduled to go afterwards to Beijing to attend the Supreme National Council (SNC) meeting to take place on 28 January in the Chinese capital.

In a separate development, it was announced today that a civilian police monitor from the Philippines serving with UNTAC had died of a gunshot wound to the head in Cambodia on Saturday in "an apparent suicide". Sergeant Winston Zerrudo is the 24th person to have died while in the service of UNTAC, according to a United Nations spokesman.

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The World Food Programme (WFP) has announced that its winter relief programme for northern Iraq continues and food deliveries were well ahead of schedule despite the recent killing of an international relief worker and bombings of relief trucks.

According to a press release issued by the Agency today, the WFP is committed to feeding 1.2 million Iraqi people throughout the country during the winter months. Its programme for Iraq, part of the United Nations Action Plan, has not been affected by the recent military actions in the Baghdad area and in the south of the country.

The WFP convoys were recently suspended for two days after a CARE-Australia international staff member was killed near Suleimaniyah. During November and December 1992, a total of 14 United Nations relief trucks were blown up, and unexploded time bombs were found on another 10 trucks from, or delivering relief food to, the Kurdish population in northern Iraq.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1317
26 January 1993

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General urges Security Council to take "whatever measures" to ensure safe and immediate return of Palestinians expelled by Israel to southern Lebanon last month.

+ United Nations Verification Mission in Angola would confine its deployment to Luanda for now, with capability of providing support for peace-keeping efforts by his Special Representative, if necessary, according to report by Secretary-General.

+ President of Angola asks for urgent Council meeting to discuss "involvement of South African Army in military action against Angolan people".

+ In first of two consecutive meetings last night, Security Council demands end to Croatian attacks on UNPROFOR and calls for immediate return of weapons seized by Serbs.

+ Security Council, in second meeting, warns all parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina of "serious consequences" if humanitarian aid continues to be impeded.

+ In Cambodia, with less than a week before end of voter registration, over 4.5 million Cambodians have registered to vote.

+ Elections held in Haiti on 18 January, as well as those planned for yesterday, were "not free and fair", according to statement by European Community.

+ Committee to combat desertification begins four-day session at Headquarters to discuss measures aimed at arresting growing threat of desertification affecting some 100 countries.

+ Economic and Social Council elects Juan O. Somavia, Chile's Permanent Representative to United Nations, as President for 1993; Council session to set up high-level Commission on Sustainable Development.

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+ International Conference on Convention on Biodiversity opened today in Nairobi by new Executive Director of United Nations Environment Programme, Elizabeth Dowdeswell.

+ Nadia Younes appointed Director of United Nations Information Centre in Rome.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended to the Security Council that it take "whatever measures" to ensure the safe and immediate return of the some 400 Palestinians expelled by Israel to southern Lebanon last month, saying that "he would be failing in his duty" if he did not make that recommendation.

In his report to the Council, dated 25 January, the Secretary-General warned that there was "a growing perception, throughout the international community" that the Council, by not pressing for Israel's compliance with resolution 799 (1992) and all other relevant resolutions, "does not attach equal importance to the implementation of all of its decisions".

The report comes after the return to Headquarters of Under-Secretary-General Chinmaya Gharekhan, the Secretary-General's Special Adviser and Representative to the multilateral peace talks on the Middle East, who, during two recent missions, held talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

According to the report, the Secretary-General intends to initiate discussions with the Israeli authorities regarding the establishment of a United Nations monitoring mechanism in the occupied territories in order to reassure the Palestinians under Israeli occupation that the international community is not neglecting their need for safety and protection.

The Israeli deportation of Palestinians last year, the Secretary-General writes, was "only the most recent in a series of violations by Israel" of the 1949 Geneva Convention on the protection of civilians in time of war. The ongoing volatility of the situation in the occupied territories, it says, remains a matter of deep concern for the international community.

The Israeli High Court of Justice began on 17 January 1993 its consideration of an appeal which challenges the legality of the Government's action in "temporarily expelling" the Palestinians. At the time of the issuing of the report, the Court hearings were continuing.
Document S/25149

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In a report containing long-term assessments of the United Nations further role in the peace process in Angola, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the United Nations Verification Mission in that country (UNAVEM II) confine its deployment to Luanda for now, but with

the capability to provide support the peace-keeping efforts of Margaret Ansteee, his Special Representative, if necessary. The recommendation - favored by the Secretary-General - is one of three options presented in his report to the Security Council, dated 21 January.

According to the report, this option, if accepted by the Council, would require the deployment of 30 military observers, six police observers and 28 international civilian staff. Under the proposal, a 30 April deadline would be set by the Council for a cease-fire agreement between by the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) and the Government of Angola and the resumption of negotiations within the framework of the Peace Accords. Failing such an agreement, UNAVEM II would be withdrawn.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali notes in his report that the fundamental cause of the breakdown of the peace process in Angola was the failure, "often deliberate", of both parties to implement in full the provisions of the Peace Accords relating to political, military and police matters or to make the necessary efforts to promote national reconciliation.

With regard to its future role in Angola, the Secretary-General urges that the United Nations remain more closely involved in the negotiations on the completion of the peace process than it did in the case of the Peace Accords of May 1991. Otherwise, the Organization might again find itself being given responsibilities which do not match the complexities of the task or which it cannot in practice discharge, he says.
S/25140

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In a related development, the President of Angola, Jose Eduardo dos Santos, President of Angola, has asked for an urgent meeting of the Council to discuss the situation in his country, in the light of "the involvement of the South African Army in military action against the Angolan people and their elected Government, together with the UNITA forces". He also reports the presence of Zairean soldiers and "mercenaries of different nationalities", who are combating alongside UNITA against the Government forces, "thus creating a new and dangerous side to the conflict".

The request was transmitted to the Secretary-General in a letter, signed by the Angolan Ambassador to the United Nations, Afonso Van-Dunem "Mbinda".

The Security Council is scheduled to hold consultations on the situation in Angola tomorrow afternoon.

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The Security Council, in the first of two consecutive meetings last night, demanded that the Croatian armed forces in or adjacent to the United Nations protected areas immediately cease their hostile activities and

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withdraw from those areas. The Council also demanded that the Serb local authorities in Croatia return to the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) the heavy weapons removed from UNPROFOR-controlled storage areas.

The Council meeting was held at the request of France, following reports that two French peace-keepers serving with UNPROFOR in Croatia had been killed. The Council had deplored on Friday, 22 January, in a President statement, the Croatian offensive against local Serbian forces and urged the Croatian forces to withdraw to positions held before the offensive.

Under last night's unanimous resolution, the Council further demanded that all parties concerned comply strictly with agreed cease-fire arrangements and that they respect fully the safety of United Nations personnel. The Council also called on all parties concerned to cooperate fully and unconditionally in disbanding and demobilization of Serb Territorial Defence units or other similar units, under the United Nations peace-keeping plan

The French Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Jean-Bernard Mérimée, said his country had spared no effort in trying to bring peace to former Yugoslavia. As a result, 11 French soldiers had died while serving with UNPROFOR. He urged the Council to call on all parties to ensure the safety of UNPROFOR personnel -- a basic obligation that was too often ignored by parties to a conflict.

The Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations, Yuliy M. Vorontsov, condemning the Croatian attack, said the Croatian army was seeking to extend the areas of hostilities, and might face sanctions similar to those which had been imposed on Serbia.

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The Security Council has warned the parties to the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina of "serious consequences" if the delivery of humanitarian relief assistance continued to be impeded. The warning came in a Presidential statement read out by Council President Yoshio Hatano (Japan) at a second Council meeting last night.

By the statement, the Council reaffirmed its demand that all parties and others concerned, in particular Serb paramilitary units, "cease and desist forthwith from all violations of international humanitarian law" being committed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly the deliberate interference with humanitarian convoys.

The Council further invited the Secretary-General to keep under continuous review the possibility of air-dropping humanitarian assistance to areas isolated by the conflict.

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In Cambodia, with less than a week to go before the end of voter registration on 31 January, over 4.5 million Cambodians have registered to

vote. According to a spokesman for the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) over 3.8 million registrants had been entered into the Electoral Component's computer as of yesterday.

With regard to mine clearing activities, the spokesman said nearly seven thousand mines had already been cleared from over a million square metres of land. In addition, almost four thousand unexploded ordnance had been destroyed, he said.

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The elections held in Haiti on 18 January, as well as those planned for yesterday, were not a valid expression of the democratic will of the people of that country, according to the European Community (EC).

In a statement transmitted to the Secretary-General by the Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations, Bent Haakonsen, the EC said the elections were "not free and fair since the necessary preconditions, notably freedom of expression and the right to an open political dialogue, did not exist in Haiti".

The statement went on to say that the EC had consistently reaffirmed their commitment to the restoration of the democratic and constitutional Government in Haiti, as well as their will to support all efforts conducive to a settlement of the Haitian crisis. It welcomed the efforts by the Organization of American States (OAU) and the United Nations to bring about the restoration of democracy in Haiti and urged all parties concerned to work towards that end.

* * *

A United Nations Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to combat desertification began its four-day organizational session at Headquarters today.

The session is expected to elaborate measures in a global effort to arrest the growing threat of desertification affecting some 100 countries and about one-sixth of the world's population. The establishment of the Committee was recommended by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held last summer in Brazil.

* * *

The Economic and Social Council, at its first organizational meeting at Headquarters today, set up its Bureau and elected Juan O. Somavia, Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations, as President of the Council for 1993.

In an opening statement, Mr. Somavia said the task of making the Council an important instrument was not a responsibility which could be divided along the lines of North and South. It must be carried out collectively.

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During the second part of its organizational session, to be held from 2 to 5 February, the Council, as requested by the General Assembly, will set up the Commission on Sustainable Development, which will be the main United Nations body in charge of the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

* * *

The International Conference on the Convention on Biodiversity was opened today in Nairobi by the new Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNED), Elizabeth Dowdeswell.

Some 100 participants from 21 countries and international and national organizations are attending the event which is expected to provide advice both on the Convention's implementation and on the elaboration of possible additional protocols.

The Framework Convention on the Conservation of Biological Diversity was opened for signature at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held in Rio de Janeiro in June last year. The document will enter into force when 30 countries have ratified it. As of last week, 160 countries had signed the Convention and six had ratified it.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed Nadia Younes as Director of the United Nations Information Centre in Rome. She succeeds Vincent Piola who is being reassigned to the Department of Public Information (DPI) at Headquarters. Mrs. Younes will take up her duties in Rome on 1 February.

A national of Egypt, Ms. Younes joined the United Nations Secretariat in 1970. Most recently, she served as Deputy Spokeswoman in the Office of the Spokesman for the Secretary-General, a post she held since March 1988.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1318
27 January 1993

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, in statement to Security Council, says ongoing conflict in Croatia has "serious implications" for Council's consideration of the renewal of UNPROFOR's mandate, due in three weeks.

+ Commission on war crimes in former Yugoslavia, ending session in Geneva, decides to undertake in-depth investigation of mass grave site near Vukovar; United States submits fifth report on violations of human rights; "impeding food deliveries to civilians" added as new category.

+ Strengthening of United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission, as proposed by Secretary-General, would cost about $112 million for initial six-month period and $12 million per month thereafter.

+ Maintenance of United Nations Angola Verification Mission would cost $940,000 per month, if Council agrees with Secretary-General's favored option.

+ Mine blast kills seven first-aid workers from Senegalese Red Cross Society and injures four others, in incident on 25 January near Boulouba in Senegal.

+ Recognition of close link between disaster-reduction measures and sustainable development called for by High-Level Council on Natural Disaster Decade, as it ends second session at Headquarters.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali told the Security Council this afternoon that the ongoing conflict in Croatia had "serious implications for the Security Council's consideration of the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR)" in that area, which is due in three weeks. The Secretary-General deeply deplored the continued military action by the Croatian armed forces, "which had placed the entire peace process in the region in jeopardy", and renewed his appeal to both sides to cease military action immediately, in compliance with resolution 802.

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For information media—not an official record

He also expressed his particular concern about the grave danger in which UNPROFOR personnel in the area had been placed, with a French UNPROFOR unit under fire at the present time. It is clearly inadmissible for peace-keepers to be held in this way, as it is unacceptable that the Croatian Government should shell areas where United Nations peace-keepers are deployed, said the Secretary-General.

Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali made this statement at an informal meeting of the Security Council, at which he briefed the Council members on a report he had received from the UNPROFOR Commander, Lieutenant-General Satish Nambiar, who has just returned from the Knin area.

Citing the Force Commander's report, the Secretary-General also said the Croatian authorities were insisting that they would not comply with the Security Council's demands to cease hostilities and withdraw their armed forces, until the Serb militias disarm, demobilize and return the heavy weapons from UNPROFOR depots. Even if the Serbs complied, the President of Croatia had declared his intention to replace his Army in the area with armed police. For its part, the Serb side demanded that the Security Council impose a deadline on Croatia to comply with the Council's resolution and withdraw completely prior to entering into talks under UNPROFOR mediation.

Already yesterday, the Secretary-General had deplored, in a statement, the military action by the Croatian armed forces, which, despite the Security Council's demand that it end, was continuing within and adjacent to Sector South of the United Nations Protected Areas.

The statement further reminded the political and military leaders involved in the conflict that the Security Council holds them responsible and accountable for the safety of United Nations peace-keeping troops deployed in the area.

* * *

The Commission of Experts set up by the Security Council to examine reports of human rights abuses in former Yugoslavia has decided to undertake in-depth investigations into criminal aspects of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, its Chairman Frits Karlshoven told the press in Geneva today. The Commission, which concluded its third session today after considering and approving an interim report to the Secretary-General, will next meet in Geneva from 1 to 3 March.

Mr. Karlshoven said the Commission also planned to examine everything related to "the prolonged battle of Vukovar". In that connection, he said, the Commission had received a report from Physicians for Human Rights concerning the mass grave site which had been unearthed at that location.

A tremendous amount of work was being carried out, he went on to say, including the compilation of voluminous information in a Chicago database. The Commission would try to assemble, from that disparate data, information pertaining to particular areas and to particular battles.

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Meanwhile, a United States State Department report has added the "impeding delivery of food and medical supplies to the civilian population" to the category of violations of humanitarian law by all parties to the conflict in the former Yugoslavia.

The report, which is the fifth in line detailing human rights abuses in the former Yugoslavia, was submitted yesterday by the Permanent Mission of United States to the United Nations to be circulated as an official Security Council document and also to be provided to the Commission of Experts, according to a press release issued today by the State Department.

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The cost to strengthen the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM), as proposed in a recent report by the Secretary-General, would be about $112 million for an initial six-month period and an additional $12 million per month thereafter, according to an addendum to that report.

The Secretary-General had proposed, in his report, to deploy an additional 31 international staff and 52 locally recruited staff for the enlarged UNIKOM, to offer an adequate response to such violations as occurred earlier this month on the border between Iraq and Kuwait.

Should the Security Council approve of an enlargement of UNIKOM's mandate as suggested, the Secretary-General would recommend to the General Assembly that the associated additional cost be considered an expense of the Organization to be borne by Member States.

The Secretary-General's recommendation follows the Council's request of 11 January that he explore urgently "the possibilities for restoring" UNIKOM to its full strength in order to enhance its effectiveness in cases of emergency.

The current mandate of UNIKOM is to observe any hostile or potentially hostile action mounting from the territory of one State to the other. Document S/25123/Add.1

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It would cost $940,000 per month to maintain the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) under the option favoured by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali in his report to the Council of 21 January.

According to that report, this option, if approved by the Security Council, would require the deployment of 30 military observers, six police observers and 28 international civilian staff. The other two options call for a monthly expenditure of some 4.7 million and 1.9 million per month, respectively, and a larger deployment of staff.

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The proposed cost estimates were contained in an addendum to the report, dated 25 January, in which the Secretary-General said he would recommend to the General Assembly that the costs relating to the maintenance of UNAVEM II be considered an expense of the Organization to be borne by Member States.

Meanwhile, a United Nations spokesman said today that the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Angola, Margaret Anstee, was currently holding bilateral talks with delegations of both the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) and the Government of Angola in Addis Ababa. A joint meeting was scheduled for this evening, he said. Document S/25140 /Add.1

* * *

A mine blast killed seven first-aid workers from the Senegalese Red Cross Society and wounded four others, one of them seriously, when their vehicle hit a mine near Boulouba, in Senegal, on Monday, 25 January.

According to a press release issued by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) yesterday, the Senegalese Red Cross team was taking part in a joint survey with the ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The aim of the survey was to assess humanitarian needs in the Casamance province, where the Senegalese National Society is carrying out an assistance operation following unrest in the province.

* * *

The High-Level Council for the International Decade for Natural Desaster Reduction, ending its second session yesterday at Headquarters, adopted a 12-Point Plan of Action which calls for the recognition of the interrelationship between disaster reduction and sustainable development.

In the Plan, the Council proposes measures designed to lead to a reduction of disasters. The proposals, which the Council is recommending that the Secretary-General convey to Member States, focus on the need to reduce the vulnerability of countries to disasters and recognize the interrelationship between environmental concerns and catastrophes, among others things.

The Special High-Level Council for the Decade (1990-2000) was set up to promote public awareness and mobilize support from the public and private sector.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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Prepared by Central News

DH/1319
28 January 1993

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, in report to Security Council, reviews encouraging developments in Cambodia as well as negative ones that are cause for concern; asks his Special Representative to proceed immediately with preparations for Presidential election.

+ Security Council asks Secretary-General to submit, as soon as possible, report on replies from regional arrangements and organizations with regard to their participation in sessions and the work of the General Assembly as observers.

+ In Presidential statement last night, Security Council calls once again on all parties in former Yugoslavia to cease immediately military action in United Nations Protected Areas; demands withdrawal of Croatian armed forces from those areas.

+ Security Council extends mandate of United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon for further six months, until 31 July 1993.

+ Secretary-General calls Israel's expulsion of some 400 Palestinians to Lebanon "illegal under international law and Security Council resolutions".

+ Greece objects to application of former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for United Nations membership under name of "Republic of Macedonia", arguing it could lead to further destabilization of southern Balkans.

+ Department of Humanitarian Affairs reviews last six weeks of relief efforts in Somalia since arrival of Unified Task Force in that country.

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An increase in violations of the cease-fire in Cambodia and a number of attacks on personnel with the United Nations Transitional Authority in that country (UNTAC) have "seriously hampered UNTAC's efforts to create and

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maintain the neutral political environment needed for the holding of free and fair elections", according Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a report to the Security Council, dated 25 January, he said the refusal by the Party of Democratic Kampuchea (PDK) to participate in the second phase of the cease-fire has made it impossible for UNTAC to carry out the cantonment, disarmament and demobilization of the factions' armed forces.

However, on the positive side, the report continued, the voter registration "has been a remarkable success", indicating that the overwhelming majority of the Cambodian people support the peace process. Moreover, the repatriation process has been a source for encouragement with two thirds of the 360,000 Cambodian refugees and displaced persons now safely returned to their country, the Secretary-General writes. UNTAC would therefore continue to prepare for the holding of free and fair elections by May 1993, as scheduled, in all areas of Cambodia to which it has access as at 31 January.

The Secretary-General wrote that he had asked his Special Representative for Cambodia, Yasushi Akashi, to proceed immediately with thelnecessary technical preparations for the presidential elections. While emphasizing the importance of holding presidential elections, as a step towards planned elections for a constituent assembly and national reconciliation, reported that Prince Sihanouk had confirmed his intention to participate in those elections.

Special Representative Akashi and Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations Marrack Goulding are currently attending a meeting in Beijing of the Supreme National Council for Cambodia to discuss the current situation in that country.

In a separate development, the spokesman for UNTAC reported today that an incident had taken place in Phum Srit in north-west Cambodia yesterday during which a group of assailants had killed 8 people and injured 12.

According to a preliminary report by the UNTAC civilian police, the attackers reportedly opened fire on a crowd numbering some 1,500 people who were taking part in the celebrations of the festival "Meakha Bochea". One eyewitness described two of the attackers wearing the uniforms of the National Aliance for a Democratic Kampuchea (NADK). However, cautioned UNTAC, it was well known that uniforms of all factions' police and military forces were available to people not affiliated with the uniform.
Document S/25124

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The Security Council has asked the Secretary-General to submit, as soon as possible and preferably by the end of April 1993, a report on replies received from the regional arrangements and organizations to an invitation for their participation in sessions and the work of the General Assembly as observers. The request was contained in a statement read out by Council

(more)

President Yoshio Hatano (Japan) this afternoon, at a meeting of the Security Council concerning the Secretary-General's report entitled "An Agenda for Peace".

In the statement, the Council expressed support for the Secretary-General's intention, as expressed in his report, to ask regional arrangements and organizations that have not yet sought observer status at the United Nations to do so. It invited the States which are members of regional arrangements and organizations to play a constructive role on ways and means to improve coordination with the United Nations.

The statement also noted the importance of the understanding reached at the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) to consider that body a regional arrangement.

The statement said the Council attached great importance to the role of regional arrangements and organizations, and recognized the need to coordinate their efforts with those of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security. The Council will continue its consideration of the Secretary-General's report.

* * *

The Security Council last night once again called on all parties in the former Yugoslavia to cease immediately military action within or adjacent to United Nations Protected Areas (UNPA) and demanded that Croatia withdraw its armed forces from those areas.

In a statement read out by its President Yoshio Hatano (Japan), the Council reiterated that it will hold the political and military leaders involved in the conflict responsible and accountable for the safety of the United Nations peace-keeping personnel in the area. It said the Council was deeply concerned to learn from the Secretary-General that the offensive by the Croatian armed forces continued unabated in flagrant violation of resolution 802 (1993) of 25 January at a crucial time in the peace process.

The Council also stated its intention to remain actively seized of the matter, with a view to considering what further steps might be necessary to ensure that its demands were met.

The Council's action was prompted by a statement by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali earlier yesterday during consultations of the Council, in which he said the ongoing conflict in Croatia would have "serious implications" for the Council's consideration of the renewal of the mandate of UNPROFOR in that area, which is due to expire on 20 February.

* * *

The Security Council has extended the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for a further six months period, until 31 July 1993.

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The Council took that unanimous decision today by adopting a note by Council President Yoshio Hatano (Japan), in which the Council stressed the urgent need for the implementation of resolution 425 (1978) in all its aspects.

According to the statement, Council members reiterated their full support for the Taif Agreement and for the continued efforts of the Lebanese Government to consolidate peace, national unity and security in the country, while successfully carrying out the reconstruction process. The Council also commended the Lebanese Government for its successful efforts to extend its authority in the south of the country in full coordination with UNIFIL. However, it expressed concern over the continuing violence in southern Lebanon, regretted the loss of civilian life and urged all parties to exercise restraint.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali told the Committee on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People at its meeting yesterday that Israel's decision in mid-December to expel some 400 Palestinians to Lebanon was "illegal under international law and Security Council resolutions". He cited the Council's demand of 18 December, 1992, "that Israel, the Occupying Power, ensure the safe and immediate return to the occupied territories of all those deported".

Broad agreement existed within the international community that the settlement of the Palestinian question should be based on the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since June 1967, the Secretary-General said. Also included should be the recognition of and respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States in the region, including their right to live in peace within secure and recognized borders; lastly, recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination.

* * *

Greece has objected to the application of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for admission to United Nations membership under the denomination of "the Republic of Macedonia", arguing that the move would lead to a further destabilization of the southern Balkans, both in a short-and long-term perspective.

In a Memorandum transmitted to the Secretary-General in a letter dated 25 January, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Greece, Michael Papaconstantinou, said the exclusive use of the Macedonian name in the republic's official denomination would be a stimulus for expansionist claims not only by present nationalist activites in Skopje but by future generations as well.

The Memorandum noted that the authorities in Skopje had adopted the name of a wider geographical region extending over four neighbouring countries, with only 38.5 percent of the whole region commonly known as Macedonia to be

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found in the former Yugoslav republic. About 51 percent of the Macedonian geographical region is in Greece, with a population of 2.5 million people, while the remaining 10 percent are in other neighbouring states.

The Greek Foreign Minister pointed out that it was in the competence of the Security Council not only to resolve disputes but also to take necessary actions to prevent them as well. "This is a clear case where preventive diplomacy is urgently needed", he said.
Document S/25158

* * *

Nearly 40,000 tonnes of food supplies including 8,000 tonnes of medicines and seeds have been delivered by organizations of the United Nations system and other relief agencies during the last six weeks in Somalia, following the arrival of the Unified Task Force (UNITAF) to that country.

A report issued by the United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs today said that in spite of difficulties faced by the relief agencies in Somalia, a major effort was made to ensure the involvement of the Somalis themselves in planning programmes from relief to rehabilitation and reconstruction. The Force would escort relief convoys from the port to the sites and remain present during the distribution to deter would-be looters.

The report further said that, as a further step, a United Nations Conference on Humanitarian Assistance for Somalia would be held in Addis Ababa in March 1993 to review the Relief and Rehabilitation Programme and receive pledges from donors.

With the launching of the 100-day Programme of Action following the Geneva Conference on Somalia in October 1992, the report added, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) had focused on improving access to food supplies, supplementary feeding for the vulnerable and "at-risk" population and the provision of other essential services. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was also assisting the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to extend their activities throughout Somalia.

In the meantime, the report said, a United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Programme for 1993 was in the process of being finalized.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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Prepared by Central News

DH/1320
29 January 1993

F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

+ Security Council unanimously extends mandate of United Nations Angolan Verification Mission until 30 April, authorizes concentration of deployment in Luanda with provision to deploy in other provincial locations; Special Representative to remain in Luanda; Council asks Secretary-General to submit further recommendations before 30 April 1993; meanwhile, meetings continued today in Addis Ababa with UNITA and Angolan Government

+ South Africa categorically denies allegations by Angolan Government that it is providing military support to UNITA.

+ Special envoy of President of Georgia asks for Security Council's assistance in resuming peace process in Abkhazia; Council to hold formal meeting tonight on the subject.

+ Security Council expresses concern over reports of Yugoslav vessels carrying oil from Ukraine to Serbia via Danube; says such shipments are "flagrant violation" of its mandatory sanctions against Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

+ Team sent to investigate allegations of widespread rape in former Yugoslavia finds "strong evidence" of rape committed on large scale during conflict.

+ Supreme National Council on Cambodia, meeting in Beijing, decides to hold elections to constituent assembly from 23 to 25 May; date for Presidential election not yet set, according to UNTAC spokesman.

+ Secretary-General calls for continued efforts to overcome obstacles to full implementation of Sea-law Convention.

+ Commission on Human Rights to begin forty-ninth session in Geneve on Monday, 1 February; to discuss state of human rights and fundamental freedoms in world today.

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For information media—not an official record

The Security Council decided today to extend the mandate of the United Nations Angolan Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) for a period of three months, until 30 April, with a provision, based on security considerations, to authorize the Secretary-General to concentrate UNAVEM deployment in Luanda, and at his discretion, in other provincial locations. Under that provision, the Secretary-General would be authorized to keep a level of equipment and personnel, deemed appropriate, in one or two outstations in order to allow redeployment of UNAVEM II with a view to the resumption of its functions in accordance with "Acordos de Paz".

The Council took that action this evening by adopting unanimously resolution 804 (1993), under which it also decided to maintain the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Angola based in Luanda, with the necessary civilian, military and police staff. It asked the Secretary-General to submit to it as soon as possible, preferrably before 30 April 1993, a report on the situation in Angola together with his recommendations for the further role of the United Nations in the peace process.

By the resolution, the Council strongly condemned the persistent violations of the main provisions of the Peace Agreements, particularly the rejection by the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) of the election results and demanded that the parties cease fire immediately and restore a continued and meaningful dialogue.

The Council also strongly condemned attacks against UNAVEM II personnel in Angola, and demanded that UNITA and the Angolan Government take all necessary measures to ensure their safety and security.

In his report to the Security Council, dated 21 January, the Secretary-General had outlined three options for the future of the Mission and the related costs. The first option was to maintain the Mission at its current strength; the second was to reduce UNAVEM's provincial deployment to approximately six locations. The Council approved the third option - favored by the Secretary-General - which suggested the deployment, for three months, until 30 April, of 30 military observers, six police observers and 28 international civilian staff in Luanda, with the capability to provide support for the peace-keeping efforts of Margaret Anstee, Secretary-General's Special Reperesentative, if necessary. The deployment

Speaking before the vote, the Minister for External Relations of Angola, Venancio de Moura, said that, although it came late, his Government appreciated the "clear and unmistakable position taken by the international community, condemning the aggressive and militaristic actions of UNITA'S radical leadership". The Angolan people and its elected Government needed the support and understanding of the international community, and could not be treated at "the same level as a military party". The Angolan Government was a legitimate Government, he said. The result of international elections had

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been endorsed by the international community and the United Nations. That was why he was asking that UNAVEM II be allowed to stay in Angola and to work with the legal institutions in place there.

The Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation, Yuliy Vorontsov, said he agreed with the Secretary-General's preferred option to concentrate UNAVEM II's presence to Luanda. He said he hoped that the meeting that had begun in Addis Ababa would result in an agreement.

The Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations, Edward Perkins, while urging the two parties to reach agreement, said the United States would continue to support UNAVEM II. However, he said, UNAVEM II and the countries concerned "cannot impose peace where the will for peace does not exist. Lasting peace is possible only when all Angolan, particularly the responsible leadership for the parties, reject the pursuit of power through violence".

Several speakers reflected that view saying that it was up the Angolans themselves to restore peace and promote national reconciliation in their country. However, they urged the United Nations to remain actively involved in Angola while there is any prospect for achieving a peaceful solution.

Meanwhile, Margaret Anstee, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Angola, informed the United Nations today that a formal agenda had been established during talks in Addis Ababa, which included the re-establishment of the cease-fire, the implementation of the peace accords, the role of the United Nations and the release of prisoners. Two commissions -- one military, the other political -- had been set up to deal with the issues.

* * *

The Government of South African has categorically denied allegations by the Angolan Government that it was militarily supporting the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).

In a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 27 January, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of South Africa, R. F. Botha, said the South African Defence Force (SADF) had submitted a report stating that it was not using military aircraft to supply UNITA.

On the contrary, he said, his Government had attempted to defuse the tension between UNITA and the Angolan Government and had consistently urged the two parties to implement the peace accords and accept the results of last September elections. South Africa would take stern action against any unauthorized activity such as flights over neighbouring States and would not hesitate to act upon any concrete evidence presented to it.

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The letter follows a request by Angola for an urgent meeting of the Security Council to discuss "the involvement of the South African Army in military action against the Angolan people and their elected Government, together with the UNITA forces".
Document S/25177

* * *

A Special envoy of President Eduard Shevarnadze of Georgia today told United Nations correspondents at Headquarters that his country had asked for the assistance of the Security Council to resume the peace process in Abkhazia.

The envoy, Alexander Kavsadze, said the Georgian President had asked the Security Council to call on all parties to the conflict to restore the 3 September agreement signed in Moscow by President Shevarnadze and President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation. That agreement had called for a peaceful solution to the Abkhazian conflict by proposing that the military of the Russian Federation would disarm and expel from the conflict zone the armed Russian mercenaries.

The special envoy asked for the dispatch of a United Nations peace-keeping force into the territory of Georgia, along the Russian-Georgian border "in order to control and prevent the illegal flow of mercenaries and arms into the territory of Georgia". He also asked that a team of United Nations observers be sent to evaluate the conflict and make proposals for its resolution.

Mr. Kavsadse recalled that President Shevarnadze had sent a letter to the Secretary-General last December "evaluating the situation in his region and asking the Security Council to send peacekeeping forces to the area". He was now requesting that the Council call on the neighbours of Georgia not to interfere in its affairs. He warned that "the conflict had reached its climax" and there was an imminent danger that it may spill over the boundaries and "implicate other countries of the region and pose a threat to international peace and security".

The Security Council was scheduled to hold a formal meeting tonight on the situation in that country.

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The Security Council has expressed concern over reports of Yugoslav vessels carrying oil from Ukraine to Serbia by way of Danube, and has said such shipments are "a flagrant violation" of its mandatory sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

In a statement read out on behalf of the Council last night, its President, Yoshio Hatano of Japan, said the shipments had reportedly left Ukranian territory after the Council had specifically prohibited oil shipments

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to or from the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in mid-November 1992. Calling on the Government of Ukraine to halt such shipments, the Council deplored that "some of the vessels have already reached Serbia".

According to the statement, the Council President has been asked by Council members to convey their concern to the representatives of Romania and Bulgaria -- two neighouring States parted by the Danube river -- to remind them of their clear obligations under the Council resolutions and to seek an explanation of their failure to fulfil them.

In a separate development, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has protested the sanctions, saying they had adversely affected all sections of the population and particularly the 600,000 refugees from other areas of the region who, it said, had not received "even the minimum of relief aid from the world community".

In a letter to the President of the Security Council, dated 26 January, the Vice-President of the Yugoslav Republic, Radoje Kontic, pointing to the "disastrous implications" of the sanctions on the citizens of the Republic, said the Council had ignored the appeals of his Government for the alleviation of the sanctions.
Document S/25164

* * *

A team of medical experts sent to investigate allegations of widespread occurence of rape in the former Yugoslavia today reported that it found "strong evidence" that rape has been committed on a large scale during the conflict. Solid evidence was found that Croatian, Muslim and Serbian women were detained for extended periods of time and raped repeatedly.

On the basis of data collected and analysed by the experts, the team found that rape has been committed by combatants on all sides of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. However, the majority of the rapes have been committed against Muslim women of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, rape has been used as an instrument of "ethnic cleansing".

The experts emphasized, however, that while wide-ranging estimates of numbers of rape victims have been made, they could discern no reliable method of establishing such figures. The team was sent by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the territory of former Yugoslavia, Tadeusz Mazowiecki.

The team, which was composed of four medical experts and was accompanied by the Director of the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women as well as members of the staff of the Centre for Human Rights, visited Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia between 12 and 23 January.

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Further details and analysis, including observations and recommendations, will be included in the Special Rapporteur's forthcoming report to the Commission on Human Rights in February.

* * *

Elections to the constituent assembly in Cambodia, under the auspices of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), will be held from 23 to 25 May, but the date for the holding of the Presidential election was still being "vigorously discussed," an UNTAC spokesman said today.

The agreement on dates for the elections to the assembly was reached at the meeting of the Cambodian Supreme National Council yesterday in Beijing. The meeting was attended by the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Cambodia, Yasushi Akashi, and the Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations, Marrack Goulding. Mr. Akashi would be returning to Phnom Penh tomorrow.

According to the spokesman, seven new rehabilitation projects worth about $25 million had been approved during the meeting. The next meeting of the Supreme National Council, which was scheduled to be held in Phnom Penh on 10 February, would be attended by Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

In a related development, the spokesman said, the UNTAC prosecutor had brought before the Phnom Penh Court yesterday a soldier of the National Aliance of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK), who was arrested in connection with the killing of 15 people on 27 December in a village in Cambodia.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said that the Convention on the Law of the Sea was an achievement of the first order by the United Nations, "because it touches on an ever so essential part of human activities".

In a statement at the opening of informal consultations on the provisions of the Convention on the Law of the Sea governing the exploitation of the international seabed, the Secretary-General said it was the United Nations responsibility to see that it "enters fully into force" and becomes "the cornerstone of tomorrow's international maritime law".

He urged all delegations to redouble their efforts to overcome the difficulties to the full implementation of the Convention. "Our task is to review the elements of a comprehensive solution", the Secretary-General said.

The Convention on the Law of the Sea establishes a global regime for the seas and the oceans of our planet. So far a total of 54 States have ratified or acceded to the Convention. It needs a total of 60 ratifications to enter into force.

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The Commission on Human Rights will begin its forty-ninth session in Geneve on Monday, 1 February, during which it will discuss the state of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the world today.

The session, which will end on 12 March, is expected to deal with questions such as human rights violations in the occupied Arab territories and southern Africa, the situation in southern Lebanon, Cuba, Romania, Iraq, Albania, Afghanistan, Iran, Myanmar, Haiti, Equatorial Guinea, former Yugoslavia and East Timor. The question of human rights in Cyprus will also be considered, as well as measures to ensure the rights of migrant workers, detainees, minorities and children.

The Commission will also discuss the violation of the human rights of all persons subjected to any form of detention, imprisonment and torture, especially that of United Nations staff members. Enforced or involuntary disappearances, human rights and states of emergency, the independence of the judiciary , hostage-taking, the right of a fair trial will be themes among others.

The Commission was established in 1946 by the Economic and Social Council and is regarded as the principal policy-making organ in the field of human rights within the United Nations system.

Since 1992, the Commission has been authorized to meet exceptionally twice a year to consider particularly grave human rights situations, provided that a majority of its members so decide.

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